

EUROPEAN INTEGRATION PROCESS IN WESTERN BALKAN COUNTRIES

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FOREWORD

As a result of an integrated and interdisciplinary joint effort, we have obtained this book entitled *European Integration Process in Western Balkan Countries*. The long and successful cooperation between the Group for Monetary and Financial Studies (GEMF) of the Faculty of Economics of the University of Coimbra and the Institute of Economic Sciences of Belgrade has resulted in all 39 chapters of this publication. Each chapter is fully oriented towards the economic, political, social, and ecological aspects of the European integration process and its perspectives for the Western Balkan countries, including the analysis of the current situation of selected European Union (EU) member states. This publication also contains important research contributions from colleagues of the Educons University, University of Nice Sophia Antipolis, Association CEMAFI International and Belgrade Banking Academy – Faculty for Banking, Insurance and Finance.

The aim of the book is to provide a clear presentation of the main facts, figures, theories, and practices required for a full understanding of the EU integration process. The impact of the current global crisis on EU integration process is addressed as well. The book covers the crucial aspects of integration, institutions, laws, politics, environment, and ecology, and the very complex process of the integration of Western Balkan countries in the EU. It is intended for economists, politicians, and social scientists, and to those who are interested in obtaining a clear understanding of the enlargement process of the EU. A wide variety of topics is therefore covered in this publication, and that is perhaps its main value. It also provides a strong theoretical and practical approach to the analysis of Western Balkan countries on their way to the EU. At the same time, it presents results that are valuable as a ‘guideline’ for other candidate countries from the Western Balkan region.

We do hope that the analysis presented in this book provides the analytical foundations for policy actions needed to foster Western Balkan countries integration into the EU, while being sure that its contents will serve as a source of inspiration for new ideas and proposals.

EDITORS

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